

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 23-33, through page 7, lines 1-5, of the Specification with the following paragraph:

The  $\alpha$ -MSH analogue may be a linear analogue as disclosed in US Patent No. 5,674,839, selected from the group consisting of:

Ac-Ser-Tyr-Ser-Nle-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-Gly-Pro-Val-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Ser-Tyr-Ser-Nle-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-Gly-Pro-Val-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-Gly-Pro-Val-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-Gly-Pro-Val-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Orn-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Orn-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Dab-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Dab-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Dpr-NH<sub>2</sub>

Ac-Nle-Glu-His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO.:5)

Ac-Nle-Asp-His-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO.:6)